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## Slippery roads take toll over the weekend

TIM WIECLAWSKI  
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**COLLISIONS** It was a busy Sunday for emergency crews as Ottawa-area drivers adjusted to icy road conditions.

Among the dozens of calls yesterday, city paramedics responded to three separate rollovers, said paramedic team leader Francois Cote.

Around 1 p.m., a vehicle rolled over on Anderson Road near Ninth Line. Shortly after that, another vehicle rolled over on Anderson and Renaud roads. In both incidents, the people involved suffered minor injuries.

At around 2 p.m., a third rollover occurred at the eastern end of the Aviation Parkway. There were no injuries in that collision.

At 3 p.m., a minivan with four passengers, all females in their mid- to late-30s, spun out of control and hit a tree on Donnelly Drive.

One passenger had to be extricated. She suffered a fractured arm, while another rear passenger was airlifted to the Ottawa trauma centre.

"In the rural streets, we seem to be having a few more problems," said Cote. "In those areas, there are a lot of snow drifts."

Firefighters responded to around a dozen vehicle collisions yesterday alone, said Fire Chief Alan Darling.

"People just aren't driving to the weather conditions. It's really slippery out there," he said.

On Saturday morning, paramedics responded to five separate collisions involving nine vehicles on Highway 417 over an hour. Of the 17 patients, five suffered serious injuries.

Between Friday and Sunday afternoon, the Ontario Provincial Police traffic unit was investigating 27 collisions on area highways.

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Climate rally

Making a stand

Front row, from left: Elly Adeland, Jamila Haider, and Sarah Czunyr brave the bitterly cold wind for a rally on Parliament Hill to encourage the Canadian government to take a leading role during the international climate-change talks now happening in Poznan, Poland. Story, page 3

## Grits look at fast track for new leader

Party hopes to move vote to mid-January from May

**Federal Liberals have come up with a proposal to fast track their leadership contest to have a replacement for Stéphane Dion in place by late January for a key vote in Parliament.**

While Dion was not due to be replaced as leader until May, Liberals now appear unanimous that the timetable must be moved up in light of the parliamentary crisis.

When Parliament returns late January, a key vote could spark a new election or see a Liberal-led coalition take power from Stephen Harper's Conservatives.

As a result, Liberals are now considering a proposal to let party members vote in January using telephone and online ballots on the choice of new leader, a Liberal source said.

The deadline to sign on new party members would be moved up to early January, with the vote held mid-month.

The vote would be "ratified" at the leadership convention already scheduled

### Two-way race?

- There were also hints that New Brunswick MP Dominic LeBlanc, the third candidate in the leadership race, is considering withdrawing from the competition, perhaps as early as today.

for May, although the leader would take over next month.

The idea, which draws on the process already on the books for a leadership review, was floated by the party executive over the weekend and has the support of contender Bob Rae.

But the proposal also sets the stage for a showdown between Rae and rival Michael Ignatieff, who reportedly wants Liberal MPs to make the leadership choice, perhaps as early as this Wednesday.

A vote by the caucus would give Ignatieff an edge since he is believed to have the support of a majority of MPs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Early morning apartment fire injures one, causes \$150K damage

TRACEY TONG  
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**INVESTIGATIONS** An apartment tenant was injured in a fire at a three-storey apartment building in Centretown yesterday morning.

At 5:48 a.m., firefighters were called to a fire at 72 Spadina Ave., where a fire had started in a third-floor back bedroom of a three-storey complex, said Platoon Chief Larry King.

Forty firefighters with nine trucks attended the

scene and remained for cleanup until 9 a.m.

"One person was slightly injured and there was about \$150,000 damage," said King.

Although the fire is not being deemed suspicious, the Ottawa fire department is now investigating the cause

of the fire and an inspector was on site yesterday.

The fire was one of several major incidents keeping firefighters busy over the weekend.

Yesterday, investigators from the Ontario Fire Marshal's office and the Ottawa

fire department continued to investigate a fire that destroyed a Centretown convenience store Saturday.

Fire and police are also continuing to investigate two suspicious fires at an abandoned schoolhouse on Franktown Road.

**World pg 4**  
**More riots in Greece**

**Celebrity Buzz pg 14**  
**Cruise fell for Holmes at first sight**



**Sports pg 9**  
**NFL makes its Canada debut**

**On the web**  
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**Deliberations on the city budget will resume today at 9 a.m.**

Last week, councillors heard from around 200 delegations and spent all day Friday debating the budget. City council needs to find \$33 million in savings just to achieve a 4.9 per cent property-tax increase. **METRO OTTAWA**

# Ottawa



## Wait to skate

It may be chilly and snowy, but it's still dangerous to venture onto the Rideau Canal ice surface, the National Capital Commission said over the weekend. The Rideau Canal Skateway usually opens in the first half of January. It takes about 10 to 14 consecutive days of cold weather (-15 C to -20 C) to develop an ice surface safe for skaters. The ice thickness must measure at least 25 to 30 centimetres. **METRO OTTAWA**

### News in brief

**HIT-AND-RUN** Police are seeking the driver of a white or light-coloured Cadillac Escalade SUV in connection with a fatal hit-and-run pedestrian collision last week. Anyone with information is asked to contact the collision investigation section at 613-236-1222, ext. 2481.

**SHELL** The military was called to the Nepean Museum on Saturday after staff there expressed concern about a Second World War artillery shell. Canadian Forces explosive ordnance disposal personnel attended the museum, where they declared the artillery shell inert.

**BLACK OUT** About 9,800 Hydro One customers east of Ottawa were without electricity yesterday afternoon. More than 27,000 customers were initially affected by an outage that began around 11 a.m. Hydro was expected to be restored by 6 p.m. Affected areas include Orléans, Alexandria, Alfred, Clarence, Cumberland, Hawkesbury, North and South Plantagenet, Osgoode, Rockland, Russell, South Gower and Winchester. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Red kettle draws volunteers to charity

TRACEY TONG  
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**Perhaps they're anticipating more of a need with the recession this year. Or maybe they're doing it for the kids.**

Regardless of their reasons for volunteering with the Salvation Army's annual kettle campaign, the program draws hundreds of volunteers in the city.

At Ottawa's malls, outside big box stores and LCBOs, volunteers — sometimes braving the cold — will put in an estimated 12,000 hours at 45 locations to help the charity reach its goal of \$500,000.

In the capital, the campaign will fund 22 programs to provide support to more than 5,000 families in 2009.

A kettle volunteer for the last five years, Ottawa resident Lisa Dussiaume gives

as many hours as she can.

"I can help families who may not have a Christmas this year," said the 33-year-old stay-at-home mom. When she hears some of the stories of people who have been helped, "you realize what you do is really worth something."

Carleton University student Richard Simard, 21, tries to bring a little extra

to his time on the kettle.

A trombonist with the Salvation Army band, he'll play tunes during his shift, which draws crowds — and donations.

"They say in times like this, people donate more because they know there are people worse off than them," he said.

While many are returning volunteers, the cam-

paign has drawn lots of new faces as well.

"It's not just a recession thing," said Ottawa resident Lynn Walsh, 27. "It's important to give anytime, because the need is always there."

"We will definitely see more need in the community," said Salvation Army spokesman Michael Maidment.

Kettle co-ordinator for the Ottawa area Paul Rieck said he's still looking for more volunteers.

"We've had to close locations because we don't have enough volunteers," he said. "The recession will only reinforce how difficult it is for some. More manpower means that we would be able to raise the donations."

The campaign ends Christmas Eve.

**"I can help families who may not have a Christmas this year."**

Lisa Dussiaume



Ottawa resident Lynn Walsh, 27, rings the bell for the Salvation Army's kettle campaign at the Bay downtown recently.

### metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Read Guidy**  
Mamann's latest analysis of immigration issues at [metronews.ca/immigration](http://metronews.ca/immigration)



### Lotteries

**Friday, Dec. 5**  
Lotto Super 7: 8, 9, 14, 16, 18, 29 & 42 Bonus 35  
**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
Lotto 6/49: 4, 8, 29, 37, 40 & 48 Bonus 45  
**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
Ontario Pick 3: 8 5 1; Ontario Pick 4: 0 3 9 4  
Encore: 2815496;  
Daily Keno: 3, 5, 10, 14, 19, 20, 25, 31, 32, 36, 38, 46, 47, 49, 53, 54, 58, 61, 63, 66  
These results are not official.

## OC Transpo strike deadline looms

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The city's transit users were busy coming up with Plan B yesterday in case OC Transpo drivers cannot reach an agreement with the city by tomorrow night.

Contract talks between the city and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 went late yesterday in hopes of reaching an agreement before the 12:01 a.m. strike deadline Wednesday.

Talks will continue today and tomorrow if necessary. If buses don't run Wednesday, "it would actually be pretty frightening," said Alayna Wright, 22.

"It's my only way of getting around the city at all. I

**98** The percentage of OC Transpo's 2,000 drivers, dispatchers and maintenance workers who voted to strike Wednesday if a deal can't be reached on sick leave, wages and scheduling. **METRO OTTAWA**

don't have the funds to be able to have a car, so to have mass transit on strike would be a frightening thing, for sure."

It normally takes the Carleton University student and south-end resident an hour to get to school by bus.

If the strike happens, she has to make alternate arrangements to get to her exam Friday and to Tunney's

Pasture, where she works for the government.

Transit in Ottawa is "pretty essential," Wright said.

But if it comes down to it, she'll work something out.

"My parents have a car ... I can try to borrow it," she said. "And there's taxis, but that's expensive."

Jennifer Baker, 29, said she and her friends will carpool if the strike happens.

"I have a car, but it's a total pain if I have to drive it downtown," said the retail employee, who was waiting for a bus downtown yesterday.

In the event of a strike, the city will ask residents to travel outside rush hour or carpool, cycle or telecommute to accommodate the projected 20 per cent increase in car traffic.

## Canada an 'embarrassment' on climate change: Sierra Club

**PROTEST** In the past week, Canada has received six "Fossil of the Day" awards at the international climate talks in Poznan, Poland.

"This means we are obstructing the negotiations that are essential to save the planet from climate change," said Stephen Hazell, the executive director of the Ottawa-based Sierra Club of Canada.

"Canada is really an embarrassment internationally, because we have been consistently opposing progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Yesterday, a modest, but determined, group of demonstrators braved bitterly cold winds to gather on Parliament Hill to let the

government know they want Canada to play a more constructive role.

Carleton University adjunct research professor John Stone said the level of greenhouse gas emissions has grown beyond the most pessimistic models predicted eight years ago and that action must be taken now.

"The longer we delay, the more risky and more costly it will be to solve," he said. "It's a diabolical issue and it's going to be very difficult to tackle, but we already know what to do and we have the technologies to do it."

Stone encouraged the crowd on the Hill to demand government action.

**TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA**

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Canadian attempts to break own longest drumming record  
Jagjit Singh of Brampton, Ont., was given a certificate yesterday for the "Guinness World Record for Longest Drumming Marathon — Individual" for his 110-hours of tabla tapping in 2007. He began an attempt to break his own record hours later. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Canada/World

## Tories approve \$917M in consultant contracts

**The Conservative government spent almost \$1 billion on consultants in its first two years in office — nearly double what the Liberals spent in a similar time period, an investigation shows.**

Consultants with expertise in strategy, communications, policy, executive hiring, professional speaking, training and information technology were among the companies that benefited from the Conservative spending spree, an analysis of thousands of government records shows.

The biggest surge was in the use of management consultants to run government programs, such as the supervision and collection of federal student loans.

A spokesperson for the

### Funding for speakers

It was also found that the Conservatives hired more speakers through agencies, though no details were provided on who the speakers were or what they talked

Prime Minister's Office has not responded to requests for an interview.

When in Opposition, the Conservatives frequently criticized the Liberals for high spending on government contracts, travel and hospitality.

The investigation found that, in its first two years in power (2006-2008), the Conservative government signed consulting contracts worth about \$917 million.

That's a 42 per cent increase over the \$534 mil-

lion in consulting contracts signed in the last two years of the Liberal government (2004-2006). The biggest jump for the Conservatives came with a \$271-million contract with Resolve Corporation, which was hired to manage the government's national student-loan program.

The additional increase of \$112 million over the Liberal period was made up of a myriad of smaller consulting contracts.

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**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Charest set to win Quebec majority

**POLITICS** Quebec Premier Jean Charest is poised for his third consecutive win today, with the fallout from Ottawa's ongoing crisis appearing to have strengthened both the federalist Liberal premier and the sovereigntist Bloc Québécois.

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper lashed out last week at the Bloc for "trying to break up the country" by supporting the Liberal-NDP coalition, there were brief signs his perceived Quebec-bashing would push votes to the flagging Parti Québécois and Leader Pauline Marois.

But polls continue to



Quebec's Premier and Liberal Leader Jean Charest greets supporters as he arrives at a rally in Quebec City yesterday.

show Charest on the verge of turning a minority into a healthy majority.

A poll by Léger Market-

ing put the Liberals at 45 per cent of the vote, the PQ at 32 per cent.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

### News in brief

**AFGHANISTAN** Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar urged Canadian forces yesterday to take a "golden opportunity" to leave Afghanistan be-

fore thousands of troops were killed in a new insurgency.

**SHOOTING** The first man to be tried in the 2005 Boxing Day

shooting death of Toronto teenager Jane Creba was found guilty yesterday of second-degree murder.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



A protester throws a stone at policemen during riots in Athens yesterday. Hundreds of demonstrators clashed with riot police in Athens and the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki in a second day of protests at the shooting of a 15-year-old boy by police.

## Riot flames fanned in Greece

**SHOOTING** Hundreds of demonstrators clashed with riot police in Athens and the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki yesterday in a second day of protests at the shooting by police of a 15-year-old boy.

Protesters hurled fire bombs at riot police along one of the capital's main streets, after security forces fired teargas at marchers protesting against the shooting late on Saturday. It was the worst rioting to hit the

**"Two car dealerships ... have been completely burnt down. A supermarket is on fire and it seems there are at least four people trapped."** Athens police statement

country in years.

"Two car dealerships ... have been completely burnt down. A supermarket is on fire and it seems there are at least four people trapped on the third floor, above it," said an Athens police statement.

In Thessaloniki, a protest by more than 1,000 people descended into violence when marchers lobbed firebombs at police, television images showed. Two police officers were arrested on Saturday for the shooting.

**REUTERS**

## Obama will offer Iran economic incentives

**NUCLEAR POWER** President-elect Barack Obama said yesterday he was prepared to offer Iran economic incentives to stop its nuclear program, but he also warned that sanctions could be toughened if it refused.

"We are willing to talk to them directly and give them a clear choice and ultimately let them make a determination in terms of whether they want to do this the hard way or the easy way,"

Obama told NBC's Meet the Press program.



Barack Obama

Dealing with Iran's uranium enrichment program, which some Western countries say is being used to develop a nuclear bomb, will be one of the first foreign policy tests for Obama after he takes office Jan. 20.

Iran said last week it did not believe U.S. policy would change under Obama.

**REUTERS**

### News in brief

**INDIA** India's foreign minister accused Pakistan yesterday of trying to dodge blame over the Mumbai attacks' Pakistani origins by leaking a story about a hoax call to Pakistan's president that set off diplomatic panic.

**NORTH KOREA** A U.S. envoy predicted tough talks on North Korea's nuclear activities today, hours before the start of negotiations over a disarmament-for-aid deal. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, speaking ahead of talks in Beijing, said negotiations would focus on how to verify North Korea's declaration of its nuclear program.

**REUTERS**



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First Georgia Community Bank, a small institution with \$237.5 million US in assets, was closed by state regulators on Friday, marking the 23rd U.S. bank failure this year. Its deposits were transferred to United Bank of Zebulon, Ga. **REUTERS**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA



## Waking up to good news

As one gloomy economic report after another spreads fear among consumers, one thing they can look forward to is a cheaper cup of coffee. Owner of Folgers coffee, J.M. Smucker Co., announced it cut list prices anywhere from 3.5 to 7.8 per cent on four Folgers products effective immediately because of a decline in the cost of green coffee beans. **REUTERS**

### Business in brief

**TRADE** Big gaps remain in the positions of trade powers, and the latest negotiating texts from the World Trade Organization issued Saturday show that a new deal to open up global commerce is far from

certain. Chairmen of the core agricultural- and industrial-goods talks said issues such as safeguards for poor farmers and proposals to eliminate duties for some industrial sectors remain dealbreakers. **REUTERS**

**AUTOS** The Canadian subsidiaries of the Big Three automakers want a total of about \$6 billion in loans and credit lines from the federal and Ontario governments to stay alive. General Motors is

seeking \$800 million now and \$1.6 billion later, while Chrysler is seeking \$1.6 billion. Ford said it would need a "standby" line of credit of \$2 billion, but would only use it if necessary.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Obama vows strong financial regulations

**President-elect Barack Obama said yesterday he would put strong new financial regulations at the centre of his economic-recovery program to force more accountability on the banking industry.**

Obama again warned that the U.S. economic crisis, which saw the country lose more than half a million jobs in November alone, would worsen before it gets better.

"As part of our economic recovery package, what you will see coming out of my administration, right at the centre, is a strong set of financial regulations," Obama said in a taped appearance on NBC's Meet the Press.

"Banks, ratings agencies, mortgage brokers, a whole bunch of folks (will) start having to be much more accountable and behave much more responsibly."

"We've got to have transparency, openness, fair dealing in our financial markets, and that's an area where I think over the last eight years we've fallen short."

Obama, who takes office on Jan. 20, began outlining

**"A whole bunch of folks (will) start having to be much more accountable and behave much more responsibly."**

Barack Obama

his economic recovery plan Saturday, saying he aims to create at least 2.5 million new jobs by 2011 and launch the largest U.S. infrastructure investment since the 1950s.

Yesterday he did not put a price tag on the plan, which analysts say could cost at least \$500 billion US. But he acknowledged the costs would be "substantial" and would hike the budget deficit at least in the short term.

"We've got to provide a blood infusion to the patient right now to make sure the patient is stabilized," Obama said. "We can't worry short term about the deficit ... We've got to make sure the economic-stimulus plan is large enough to get the economy moving." **REUTERS**

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## Credit fears in RBC's cards

**EARNINGS** Royal Bank of Canada is bracing for deteriorating credit quality in fiscal 2009, predicting the economic malaise will trigger steeper job losses and more soured loans.

Canada's largest bank said it is preparing to absorb more credit losses, after posting double-digit declines in both its fourth-quarter and full-year profits.

Credit quality, already a worry for its U.S. bank, is being carefully monitored because 77 per cent of its loans are in Canada.

"Looking forward, assuming slower economic growth and higher unemployment in Canada, we would expect credit quality in Canada to weaken moderately in fiscal 2009," said chief risk officer Morten Friis. "Based on this, we would anticipate

modestly higher average provisions across consumer, business and corporate credit portfolios."

During the fourth quarter, provisions for credit losses jumped to \$619 million from \$263 million in the same period last year. While the United States was a key trouble spot, Canadian banking also saw bigger provisions, "primarily reflecting portfolio growth and higher loss rates in credit cards."

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

### A tough week

RBC is the second major bank to disclose higher credit-card losses. Earlier this week, CIBC said it would continue tightening credit-card lending in 2009 after losses accelerated in its latest quarter.



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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Best in buyer's remorse

## HineSight

Anne Hines



Last week, I wrote about a foolish, impulsive purchase I recently made — a birdbath heater. I invited you all to e-mail me tales of your silliest purchases.

Here are the results:

- 43 per cent of e-mails received came from readers wanting to know where they too could buy a birdbath heater. A special shout-out to Bruce in Dartmouth, who reported he'd gone online and sourced out several different models of heaters. This is diligent, resourceful work, Bruce. It's missing the point of the exercise entirely, but it's diligent and resourceful.

**Harvey reports, "The stupidest thing I ever bought was a weight-loss book called The Grapefruit Diet." His second dumbest purchase? Twenty pounds of grapefruit.**



- 21 per cent of respondents shared charming stories of the birdbath heaters they already own and how happy their birds are.

- 0.5 per cent of readers objected to my being gay. Mom, stop sending me e-mails about this.

From those who actually weighed in, here's a cross-country sampling of "less than intelligent purchases we've made."

Chantal from Calgary says the most foolish thing she ever bought was a marriage licence.

"I should have known it was a dumb idea," she said. "It was my third one."

Roman (Ottawa) says he regrets spending money on

newspapers, "Since I realized I could get this great paper, the Metro, for free." Ahhhh...

Jennifer (Vancouver) admits to buying a Tile Titan, an electrical device that uses steam to blast bathroom tile scum.

"It made so much steam, my bottle labels fell off. I accidentally washed my hair with body wash for a week. It also removed strips of the bathroom wallpaper."

The only thing not affected? The tile scum.

Harvey (Victoria) reports, "The stupidest thing I ever bought was a weight-loss book called The Grapefruit Diet." His second dumbest purchase? Twenty pounds

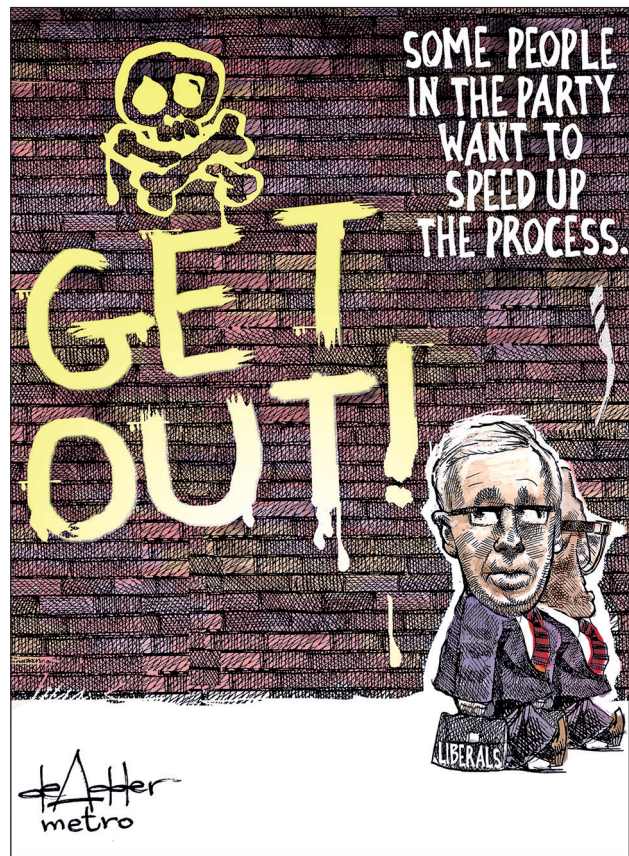
of grapefruit. "By the fourth day, I couldn't stand the sight of them. Fortunately it was Halloween so I just handed them out to the kids. They hated them, too."

Carol (Toronto) bought a fashionable chef's cookbook that insisted no cook should be without a mortar and pestle. She lugged one home, only to realize that each recipe calls for a mere ounce or two of freshly ground herbs. Either she had to buy a bunch and let most go to waste or try growing her own, which was akin to "watching plants die."

Carol's solution? Go back to using dried and enjoy her lovely new doorstep.

Finally, Lin (Halifax) says the dumbest thing she bought was "My ex-boyfriend's story about where he spent Friday night." Enough said.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



## Letters

### It's up to consumers to adapt to high oil prices

Referring to an article on dropping oil prices (Nov. 12), some people may have been happy when oil prices fell below \$60 a barrel, which means gasoline prices tumbled as well.

However, expensive oil forces us to be more innovative in searching for alternatives, and it improves efficiency in the way we use our land, how we move around (smaller cars, better transit) and how we make things (companies invest in more energy efficient machinery).

There are many solutions, such as don't drive. Or if you need to drive because you live two hours away from your job, then it's best to move near your work place. I don't see why oil companies need to accommodate our personal preferences.

KAMALIKA BARUA, TORONTO

### Opposition offers surprise present from the past

Just when Canadians thought they were through yet another federal election and had democratically elected the government of their choice, an irresponsible and power-mad opposi-

tion come up with a surprise Christmas present to oust the Conservatives.

This attempt to take power without an election is shameful enough, but I find it even more distasteful that former prime minister Jean Chrétien and NDP leader Ed Broadbent would have such contempt for democracy as to be involved in this backroom deal.

GERALD HALL, NANOOSE BAY, B.C.

### If Harper can't work with others, he can't work at all

Many democratic countries have coalition governments and they work fine.

As far as this coalition being democratic, of course it is!

In fact, any way you slice it, this coalition will better represent the will of the people of Canada.

The fact that the Bloc is willing to help this coalition as well is perfectly normal in a parliamentary democracy.

It is quite evident that Harper is unwilling to work with others in Parliament and therefore unable to run the government.

Harper will go down in history as uniting the right and uniting the left.

TERRY J. STAVNYCK, OTTAWA

## Views

# Conquer 'stop anxiety' and move back

## InTransit

John Holmes



OC Transpo operates more than 6,000 bus stops, but only about one-sixth have shelters.

Anyone who's waited at one of the unsheltered stops during a snowstorm knows that by the time a bus comes, it's more like a rescue than a routine public service. We've all been there, huddling in the nearest doorway, then piling on to the bus like weather refugees.

However, it's one thing waiting for your bus, and another when it drives straight past you.

Kelsey Nutland, a transit rider in the Glebe, often finds that's the case when she tries to catch the busy 1 and 7 routes along Bank Street. She points the finger at some of her fellow riders.

"Inconsiderate passengers don't move to the back of the bus during morning rush hour," she complains. "So the driver thinks the bus is full and speeds right by. There is nothing worse than freezing your butt off and seeing that the entire back of the bus is empty. This happens to me at least once a week."

Some riders are oddly averse to moving to the back. Others would rather stand than sit next to another passenger, clogging up the bus's main artery. Both cause a related issue — what I term "stop anxiety." This occurs when riders stand some time before the bus

reaches its destination, and exacerbate the problem. I've seen people get up as a bus leaves Westboro Transitway station, and stand nervously by the door all the way to Tunney's Pasture. But when you have to push through a posse of standing passengers just to get off in time, you don't have much choice.

Are OC Transpo passengers solely at fault? Or can we pass the buck and blame another culprit — bus design? It's certainly a factor. The New Flyer D40i and Orion Vi are two of the bus models regularly used on Bank Street. Both are reliable, nimble buses, but perhaps aren't best suited to one of Ottawa's busiest routes.

The New Flyer has a raised seating area in the back. Often passengers don't stand there, giving the driver that false impression

the bus is full. The Orion Vi is smaller, and has an exit at the very rear.

When full, it's a tough task battling the length of the bus in order to get off. This in turn raises stop anxiety to new heights.

I'm not asking OC Transpo go out tomorrow and buy 200 super-size buses to run down Bank Street. But next time they are in the market for a new fleet, standing passengers should be taken into consideration. Until then, a bit of collective common sense goes a long way.

"It's basic bus etiquette," says Nutland. "Move back."

For the sake of your fellow commuters, please move to the back of the bus whenever possible.

John Holmes is a writer for various publications in Canada and the U.K. He's never had a driver's licence, and has relied on public transit for all of his adult life.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [ottawalatters@metronews.ca](mailto:ottawalatters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



# Going Green

## Recycled steel saves

Canadians recycle steel at a rate of 65 per cent. Every tonne of recycled steel saves 1,131 kilograms of iron ore, 633 kilograms of coal and 54 kilograms of limestone, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green and Make a Difference by Tanya Ha.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

### News in brief

**CARBON** U.S. venture capitalists say they see a bright spot amid the international economic gloom: A potential trillion-dollar market in carbon spurred by new regulations and a growing awareness of climate change. The growth areas are less in traditional

"green" businesses like solar panels and windmills and more in new infrastructure, such as a "smart" grid that would get alternative energy from where it's generated to where the customers are, said Martin Whittaker of Mission Point Capital Partners. So-

called smart grids let customers instantly see the price of the power they are buying, which is expected to cut demand during daily peak load hours and reduce demand from centralized traditional fossil-fuel power plants.

REUTERS

## What would you do with \$4 trillion?

### ScienceMatters

David Suzuki & Dr. Faisal Moola



Many of you are working to recycle, reduce energy consumption, and improve the world for your families and neighbours. The collective impact of these many small efforts is making a big difference.

Just think what you could do with \$4.1 trillion! That's how much the U.S. and 17 Western European countries are spending to bail out financial institutions involved in an economic crisis that began in the U.S. and soon reverberated around the world. (The final amount will likely be a lot more. It's difficult to fathom such a large number, but consider that one trillion seconds is about 32,000 years!) To top it off, most of the details are secret; we don't really know what the money is being used for — although it probably hasn't stopped your retirement savings funds from plummeting.

The effect on people in developing nations is even worse. Most of them didn't have savings to begin

with, and now the economic crisis, coupled with the effects of the climate crisis — including drought and food shortages — is causing more of our human family to suffer from extreme poverty and joblessness.

Just think what they could do with \$4.1 trillion!

If we think we needn't worry about what happens to developing nations because it isn't affecting us, we should remind ourselves that, just as everything in nature is connected, so is everything in our global economic and political systems. Increased international job competition and reduced export opportunities are just two of the smaller impacts mentioned in the IPS report.

But the worst meltdown isn't of the global economy. Another report, Climate Safety, from the Public Interest Research Centre, shows the Arctic's late-summer ice is melting much faster than scientists previously predicted and may disappear within three to seven years. The cascading consequences of such an event could be catastrophic.

Just think what we could do with \$4.1 trillion!

Instead of giving companies these huge sums of money so they can continue business as usual, buying and selling, merging, and paying their executives obscene salaries and bonuses, we could put it toward renewable energy, sustainable urban planning, and research into ways to lessen the impact of climate change — things that really would stimulate economies.

As citizens, we can and must do everything possible to keep our finite world alive and healthy.

Along with the small but important changes we are making in our own lives, we must also call on our leaders to stop downplaying the unequivocal science that tells us failing to quickly address the climate crisis will make the economic crisis seem like a minor blip in history.

We could tell them where to put that \$4.1 trillion!

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at [www.david.suzuki.org](http://www.david.suzuki.org).

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

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**Toronto to host UConn and Buffalo in bowl game**

The University of Connecticut is set to take on the University of Buffalo in the third-annual International Bowl in Toronto on Jan. 3. The Buffalo Bulls won the Mid-American Conference title by shocking previously unbeaten Ball State in the championship game on Thursday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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# Sports



## Wie makes the grade

Despite a rough start to the round, Michelle Wie, left, finished in seventh place at the LPGA's qualifying school yesterday, good enough to earn her a full-time card on the tour. The 19-year-old Wie has played in many LPGA and PGA tournaments in the past but mostly on sponsor exemptions. Wie finished the five-round event 12-under par, six shots back of first-place finisher Stacy Lewis. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

# Dolphins down Bills

## Miami dominates in the first NFL game in Canada

### NFL ROUNDUP

**Dolphins 16 Bills 3**

**Chad Pennington** threw for 181 yards and one touchdown on an efficient 23-of-29 passing, as Miami topped Buffalo, 16-3 at the Rogers Centre in Toronto yesterday, in the first NFL game played in Canada.

Ronnie Brown ran for 70 yards on 16 carries for the Dolphins (8-5), who pulled into a three-way tie for first place in the AFC East with the win.

**Eagles 20, Giants 14** — Brian Westbrook rushed 33 times for 131 yards and a touchdown while adding six receptions for 72 yards and a score, as the Philadelphia Eagles scored a surprise 20-14 victory over the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J.

Donovan McNabb threw for 191 yards and a touchdown on 19-of-30 passes for the Eagles (7-5-1), who have won two in a row and kept their hopes alive for a postseason berth with a huge road division victory.

**49ers 24, Jets 14** — Shaun Hill threw for 285 yards with a pair of touchdowns as the San Francisco 49ers surprised the New York



Anthony Fasano of the Miami Dolphins, centre, is stopped by Paul Posluszny during yesterday's game at Rogers Centre in Toronto. The Dolphins won 16-3.

Jets, 24-14 in San Francisco.

Hill connected on 28-of-39 passes and was picked off once, and Frank Gore rushed for 52 yards on 14 carries and also caught a four-yard touchdown pass before leaving the game early in the third quarter with an ankle injury.

**Steelers 20, Cowboys 13** — DeShea Townsend's 25-yard interception return with 1:40 left gave Pitts-

burgh two touchdowns in 19 seconds, after going nearly 58 minutes without finding the end zone, and the Steelers earned a 20-13 victory in a heavyweight defensive bout with the Dallas Cowboys from Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

**Patriots 24, Seahawks 21** — Sammy Morris scored the game-winning touchdown late in the fourth quarter as the New England Patriots fought back

to down the Seahawks, 24-21 in Seattle.

Elsewhere in the NFL, it was: San Diego 34, Oakland 7; Chicago 23, Jacksonville 10; Minnesota 20, Detroit 16; Houston 24, Green Bay 21; Indianapolis 25 Cincinnati 3; New Orleans 29 Atlanta 25; Tennessee 28, Cleveland 9; Denver 24, Kansas City 21; Arizona 34, St. Louis 10.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Blazers edge Raps in Triano's home debut

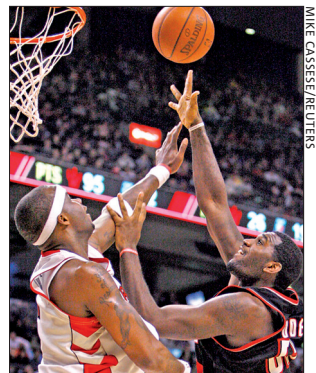
### NBA RESULTS

**Portland 98 | Toronto 97**



**NBA** Steve Blake scored 19 points, including the game-winning three-pointer with 8.9 seconds remaining as the Portland Trail Blazers edged the Toronto Raptors, 98-97, at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto yesterday.

Blake also chipped in with seven rebounds, while LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 points and eight boards, and Brandon Roy had 15 points with seven assists for Portland, which has won nine of its last 11 games. Rudy Fernandez scored 16 points and added eight rebounds off the bench for the Trail Blazers. Jermaine O'Neal scored a



Portland Trail Blazers forward Greg Oden, right, puts a shot over Toronto Raptors forward Jermaine O'Neal during yesterday's game.

season-high 24 points and grabbed eight rebounds, while Chris Bosh had 19 points and Jose Calderon 15 points and 13 assists for the Raptors, who have dropped four straight and two in a row under interim head coach Jay Triano.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

### SCOREBOARD

#### NHL

##### LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

Calgary 3 N.Y. Rangers 0  
Carolina 3 Washington 1  
Chicago 7 Phoenix 1  
Colorado 5 Vancouver 4 (SO)  
Anaheim 5 Columbus 3

##### TONIGHT'S GAMES

Tampa Bay at Boston  
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto  
Florida at OTTAWA  
Buffalo at Pittsburgh  
Nashville at St. Louis

##### LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

Portland 98 Toronto 97  
New York 104 Detroit 92  
Boston 122 Indiana 117 (OT)  
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers  
TONIGHT'S GAMES  
Charlotte at Miami  
Houston at Memphis  
Golden State at Oklahoma City  
Orlando at L.A. Clippers

#### NFL

##### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Arizona 34 St. Louis 10  
Chicago 23 Jacksonville 10

#### NBA

Denver 24 Kansas City 17  
Houston 24 Green Bay 21  
Indianapolis 35 Cincinnati 3  
Minnesota 20 Detroit 16  
New England 24 Seattle 21  
New Orleans 29 Atlanta 25  
Philadelphia 20 N.Y. Giants 14  
Pittsburgh 20 Dallas 13  
San Francisco 24 N.Y. Jets 14  
Tennessee 28 Cleveland 9  
Miami 16 Buffalo 3 (at Toronto)  
Washington at Baltimore  
TONIGHT'S GAME  
Tampa Bay at Carolina

## Hurricanes' Ward placed on IR

**NHL** The Carolina Hurricanes placed goaltender Cam Ward on injured reserve yesterday with a groin problem.

The 2006 Conn Smythe Trophy winner, Ward is 8-7-2 with a 2.68 goals-against average and .911 save percentage in 18 games this season.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

### Sports in brief

**BOXING** Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines stunned 10-times world champion Oscar De La Hoya with an eighth-round TKO in their non-title fight in Las Vegas on Saturday. Moving up two weight classes for his first fight at welterweight, WBC lightweight champion Pacquiao dominated De La Hoya from the opening bell.

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**York law students return to class**

Osgoode Hall Law School students at York University returned to class last week despite the ongoing strike by teaching assistants and contract faculty. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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# Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

## Hope lies within IT and health

### Job Trends

ROBYN YOUNG  
for Metro Canada



**With over 50,000 jobs recently slashed at America's biggest bank and the automotive industry spiralling ever deeper into debt, it's hard not to worry about employment, or the lack thereof.**

But career services experts in Canada say there are still jobs to be had for those with the right skills, and the country's employment situation isn't as bad as the headlines might suggest.

The massive job cuts, says the president of Workopolis.ca, are happening in the United States and have only started in Canada — which can be seen in the recent increase of the national unemployment rate to 6.3 per cent, according to Statistics Canada.

"In the U.S. we're seeing extremely high unemployment rates: Between six and 6.5 per cent, which is really, really high for the U.S.,"

**"In some areas like technology, we're still seeing great demand; in areas like health care, we're seeing great demand."**

Workopolis  
president  
Pat Sullivan



Remember there are sectors that continue to thrive.

says Pat Sullivan, president of Workopolis.

"In Canada we're (still) at 20-year lows for unemployment, and it's important to keep that in perspective."

In October 1999, the unemployment rate in the country was 7.2 per cent.

While it's important to

keep things in perspective, Sullivan says, with the stock market as volatile as it's been it's also important to remain cautious, and many Canadian companies are doing just that through hiring freezes and cutting down on capital costs.

But economic downturn

or not, there are sectors that continue to thrive and search out new hires.

"In some areas like technology, we're still seeing great demand; in areas like health care, we're seeing great demand," Sullivan says.

In addition, employees

with accounting skills are in high demand, says Greg McKeown, director at People Source, an employment solutions company in Toronto.

"When we are going through some of these uncertain times, it's even more imperative, for example, that companies have top-notch accountants driving the business," he says.

Companies have to watch their money more closely, monitor their budgets better, cut costs and improve on financial analysis, he says.

There continues to be jobs in information technology (IT), say McKeown and Sullivan, but many companies are now looking for employees with more specified skills such as .NET and systems management.

Whatever the sector, most notable is the demand for highly skilled workers, says a representative from Kelly Services Canada. The employment solutions company has been overwhelmed with requests for employees with engineering, finance or science skills.



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**Support grows for Truro arts institution**

World-renowned novelist Margaret Atwood and Toronto theatre producer David Mirvish have thrown their support behind an initiative to establish a post-secondary performing arts school in Truro, N.S. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

workology **11**

# Providing a better life, one chimp at a time

## OddJobs

**Diane Peters**



After running a successful grooming business outside Montreal for 19 years, Gloria Grow, upon approaching 40 decided she wanted to do more for animals than make them look good.

She and her veterinarian husband already owned a farm and had begun rescuing rabbits, horses and sheep. She got increasingly involved in animal rights, and heard a speech from Dr. Jane Goodall at a conference; she said there were HIV-positive chimpanzees living in labs across North America who needed homes.

Grow then volunteered to work with chimps at the University of Washington. "I knew then that this was what I wanted to do."

She discovered a lab in New York State that was closing. Using her retirement savings, she built a 10,000 square foot facility on her farm in early 2007. That fall, 15 chimps arrived; some of them had HIV.

The illness wasn't a problem. Chimps can naturally fight the disease, and she just had to take extra care when near their blood or waste. More difficult to handle was the chimps' post-traumatic stress from life in the lab. "When I met them in the lab they were trying their

best to be nice. But when I got them here, all hell broke loose," she recalls.

Chimps, which weight around 200 pounds each, are very strong and can become violent, even if they know and like you. Caregivers have been known to lose hands.

In the early days, Grow worked mostly by herself, with the help of family members, and almost never left the farm. Eventually, thanks to media coverage and several documentaries, people started donating to the nonprofit she had created, the Fauna Foundation, and she hired help.

More than ten years later, Grow, now 53, has a staff of ten and spends just three days a week in the chimp house.

These days run from eight until five, with most of the time spent cooking — chimps start their day with smoothies and eat large quantities of a human-like vegetarian diet. There's also the cleaning of the cages, dealing with injuries and taking visitors around. Newcomers have little direct contact with the chimps — who don't like strangers and can get violent.

Grow has become very emotionally connected to her charges, six of which she's seen pass away. She says some of her older residents like Tom and Sue Ellen feel like old, dear friends, while the newer chimps — she's more recently rescued two from zoos, and now has a total of 13 — feel almost like her own children.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.



Chimpanzees, like the one above, have been rescued from zoos and laboratories by Gloria Grow.

## The Lowdown

**Best Part of the Job:** "The chimps are wonderful. They wear their hearts on their sleeves, they're so true and honest."

**Worst Part of the Job:** "The sadness of knowing they will never get to hold their own children or be with their own families."

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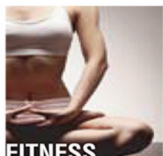
50 O'Connor Street, 14th Floor  
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12

Entertainment

**Actor's appeal**  
Wesley Snipes is appealing his three-year prison sentence for tax evasion, arguing his work to thwart terrorists (teaching airline flight crews martial arts) makes him a national hero. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Box office

Ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to studio estimates:

1

**Four Christmases:**  
\$18.2 million US

2

**Twilight:**  
\$13.2 million

3

**Bolt:**  
\$9.7 million

4

**Australia:**  
\$7 million

5

**Quantum of Solace:**  
\$6.6 million

6

**Madagascar: Escape 2**

7

**Africa:** \$5.1 million

8

**Transporter 3:**  
\$4.5 million

9

**Punisher: War Zone:**  
\$4 million

10

**Cadillac Records:**  
\$3.5 million

**Role Models:**  
\$2.6 million

REUTERS

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies)

# Watching this is punishing

STEVE GOW  
for Metro Canada



**Punisher: War Zone**

**Director:** Lexi Alexander

**Stars:** Ray Stevenson, Dominic West

**Class:** 18A

**Rating:** ●

**REVIEW** Punisher: War Zone is the third attempt to bring the violent vigilante comic book character to the big screen, and by this latest example, the third time is not always the charm.

For those unschooled in the ways of the Punisher, he is Frank Castle (Ray Stevenson of HBO's Rome), an ex-marine set on riding the world of corruption after the murder of his wife and child.



Punisher: War Zone brings the comic book to the big screen again.

In War Zone, we catch up to the Punisher taking on Billy Russoti (Dominic West of 300), a devilish crime boss who was grossly disfigured at the hands of Castle. Set on retribution, Russoti renames him-

self Jigsaw — his face looks like a moth-eaten quilt after all — and assembles an army of (inept) assailants to avenge the Punisher.

Basically, this movie aims to please the sort of movie fans who rate the excessiveness of a bad guy being impaled with a chair leg slightly higher than engaging screenplays or restrained performances.

So, with that in mind, I prefer to highlight who this film might be for: If you like action that borders on campy but isn't convincing enough to seem intentionally so, this movie's for you.

If you like a villain attempting to emulate the intensity of Heath Ledger's The Joker, but instead achieving a level of depth expected more from the

Screentimes

- Coliseum Ottawa, Mon-Thu 5-7:40-10:20
- Rideau Centre Cinemas, Mon 4-7-9:20 Tue-Thu 4-6:45-9:10
- South Keys, Mon-Thu 10:55-1:25-4:35-7-9:30
- Starcité Hull, (English) Mon-Thu 1:25-3:50-7:10-9:35, (French) Mon-Thu 12:50-3:25-6:45-9:20
- SilverCity, Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:15-9:50

likes of Steven Seagal, this movie's for you.

If you want to see a fat dude on a toilet get his head blown apart by a hol-low-point gunshot, this movie's for you. Simply put, if you want to punish yourself at the theatre, then this movie's for you.

PT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/8/08	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team "Hartlepool"	The Agenda With Steve Paikin	Midsomer Murders	To Build a Nation	Agenda-Paikin			
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Prison Break (HDTV) (N)	Heroes "Our Father" (N)	My Own Worst Enemy	News (N)		
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Élections Québec 2008: le choix	Présentation des résultats des élections. (N) (SC)					
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Two/Half Men (9:31) Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights	News (N)			
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)	News (N)	
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (N)	The Border (HDTV) (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Heroes "Our Father" (N)	My Own Worst Enemy	News (N)		
	117	713	10	TVA	Shrek	Bloopers TVA	Le Québec vote La soirée électorale. (N)					
	-	-	11	QS	Latulippe et cie		CSI: NY (SC)	Pushing Daisies (SC)	Cent dix pour cent (SC)	Msr Showbiz		
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Astroboy à Roboland	Les Temps qui changent ★★ (2004)	Folie-aventure	Croisée		
prime time	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)	Big Bang Th	How I Met	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)	Two/Half Men	Friends	Small Places	
	216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case "Committed"	News (N)	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Privileged (HDTV) (N)	Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	News (N)	
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU	News (N)	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Privileged (HDTV) (N)	Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	News (N)	
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Worst Week	How I Met	Boston Legal "Made in China; Last Call" (N)	News (N)		
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	A Charlie Brown Christmas	Boston Legal "Made in China; Last Call" (N)				
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions	Heure polit.	L'Heure politique			Revue	Période-quest.	
	651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show	100 Huntley Street	Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee	
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Prison Break (HDTV) (N)	News (N)		News	
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Whiz Quiz	Antiques Roadshow	Lorie Line: Glory-Cmas	Downe in Yon Forrest		Tavis Smiley	
news	205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Election 2008					
	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Pedigree Dogs Exposed	National		
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)			
	406	417	27	net	Overtime	NHL Hockey	Florida Panthers at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)		Sportsnet Connected	Hockey Central		
	126	730	28	RDI	(6:30) Élections Québec 2008: le choix	Présentation des résultats des élections.						
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown	NFL Football	Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Carolina Panthers. (HDTV) (Live)				
	410	403	52	SCR	The WWE Experience	(8:15) WWE Monday Night Raw						
	411	457	56	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Pilot Guides	Mantracker	Departures	Pilot Guides		
	417	406	59	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Banquet (N)	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson	Car Crazy		
	554	544	48	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
sports	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed	Parental Advis.	Parental Advis.	Where You At	Revival	Party of Five
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "The Oath"	Intervention In-Depth: Meth	Intervention "Coley"			The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: NY "Heroes"			CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Ult. Fighter	
	521	560	34	TLC	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count
	145	761	35	TV5	Toute une histoire	Des racines et des ailes "Numéro spécial: Ile de la Réunion"				Partir autre	Expression	Journal TV5
	616	521	39	SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives	Ahead of the Curve	Liberamae	Opium	Dance Atlantic	Dance With Me	Law & Order	
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)	MythBusters	Dirty Jobs			Canada's Worst Driver	Daily Planet	
family	575	583	43	CMT	Live & Up Front: Doc Walker	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
	601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style (N)	ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Dennis Leary Merry F...in	Daily Show	
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Fools Rush In ★★ (1997, Comedy-Drama) Matthew Perry.			Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My First Place	Home to Stay	Marriage	Income Prop.	Holmes-Homes	
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost	Star Trek	Battlestar Galactica			Eureka		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53	MTV	The Hills	After Show	MTV News	Cribs	Super Sweet	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?		Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Mind Games"	Battle 360 "Call to Duty"	Underworld Histories			NCIS "Mind Games"		Crime Stories
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies Ben Weider.	Alerte animale (HDTV)	Superscience (HDTV)			Motards hors-la-loi (HDTV)		National Geo
cable variety	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote	Prime Minister	May-December	The Waltons "The Star"		Emily of New Moon		Med. Woman
	602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Love It or List It (N)		Confidential	Kim	Save Us-House
	269	350	70	APTN	Notre Peuple	La Cité	Mishkuenita	Rendez-vous sur la Lune ★ (1995, Fantastique) Cody Serpa.				Closer-Home
	621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	TMZ (N)	etalk	Scream Queens		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover	Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant

critics' corner—

**Christopher House: Ahead of the Curve**

Modern dance choreographer Christopher House is the subject of this documentary directed by his sister Rosemary. She follows him as he creates "TimeCode Break" and gets him talking about his childhood. House joined the Toronto Dance Theatre in 1978 and has created more than 50 works for the group. 8 PM on 40 BVO-



**Daily Planet**

Check out the science news show's "Tech Toys Week." It's a showcase for all kinds of weird and wonderful inventions — although most aren't available for purchase unless you're a billionaire. That includes a solar car covered in crystals. 7 PM on 42 DIS

**How I Met Your Mother**

We're not sure whom to blame. Ted tries to prove he's not pathetic for being left at the altar, and Barney tries to impress Robin, who thinks fighting is sexy, by picking a fight with a bunch of guys sitting in their favorite booth. 8:30 PM on 13 CBS, 18 E!

## Boy George could go to jail

**PEOPLE** Singer Boy George could be jailed next month after being found guilty on Friday for falsely imprisoning a Norwegian male escort by handcuffing him to a wall.

Judge David Radford said a prison term was "the more likely option" when he sentences the 47-year-old former Culture Club frontman on Jan. 16.

## Guitarist Satriani sues Coldplay

**MUSIC** Rock guitarist Joe Satriani has sued rock band Coldplay, accusing the Grammy-nominated stars of plagiarizing one of his songs.

Satriani's copyright infringement suit, filed in Los Angeles federal court, claims the Coldplay song Viva La Vida incorporates "substantial original portions" of his 2004 song If I Could Fly.

## GlobalStyle

**Kenya Hunt**

Exclusively at [metronews.ca/globalstyle](http://metronews.ca/globalstyle)

 Read this week's Book Picks at [metronews.ca/entertainment](http://metronews.ca/entertainment)



# Saddam's soap opera

Intel**le**Vision

**Rick McGinnis**

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

**HUSSEIN ASYLUM:** HBO Canada premiered the first two hours of House Of Saddam last night, half of the 4-hour miniseries dramatizing the reign of the late Saddam Hussein from his seizure of the presidency in 1979 to his death in 2006.

Perhaps because it was HBO — in association with the BBC — who put together the project, it's not surprising that the majority of the reviews have compared the show, and Yigal Naor's performance as Saddam, to The Sopranos, when they haven't been comparing it with The Godfather or Scarface.

It's a thickly curdled soap opera, cast with everyone from an Israeli (Naor), to an Italian-American (Philip Arditti as Uday Hussein, Saddam's psychopath son), and a Persian Oscar nominee (Shohreh Aghdashloo), and seemingly every actor who's been seen portraying an Arab in films large and small over the past decade or so, glimpsed in major roles or cameos.

It's possibly the most spoiler-proof film made in a generation; even po-

litical shut-ins should know the ending of this story. Four hours gives the directors and writers behind the series room to shoehorn in as much as they can, from the opening, with its conspicuous parallel to the opening wedding party scene in the first Godfather film, to the King Lear-like passage at the end where Saddam wanders through American-held Iraq, attended by a loyal servant and a little boy and harassed by ants.

In this final stretch, the film does its best to humanize the Iraqi dictator, but after everything we've seen so far, it actually feels more disturbing than the horror of ambition and delusion that preceded it.

Most people won't have the stomach to make it to the end of all four hours (the second half airs next Sunday), and opponents of the U.S. invasion of Iraq won't find much to bolster the alternative with the painstaking dramatization of every bloody convulsion of Saddam's Stalinesque career. The cast can take a good deal of credit for this — the performances of Naor, Arditti and Aghdashloo as well as the rest of the cast make things less lurid than vivid.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.



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## Helping you get around . . . Options for the Community During a Transit Disruption

*Major transit service disruptions are hard on everyone, especially seniors and families with children. That is why the City of Ottawa is doing all we can to reach a fair settlement that respects our taxpayers and transit riders.*

*Without public transit there will be more vehicles on the road, which will lead to more traffic congestion. Speak with your employer about alternative work arrangements—working from home or changing your work hours to avoid traditional rush hour periods.*

*If you need to drive during a transit service disruption, carpooling is the best way to go. Carpooling reduces the number of vehicles on the road, reducing traffic congestion, and saves you money on gas. Please visit ottawaridematch.com to find carpool partners near your home or work place.*

*However you choose to travel—by foot, bicycle or car, please remember to travel safely.*

*To make the commute easier, some parking regulations will be relaxed temporarily and some City bus-only lanes will be opened to regular traffic. (See Traffic and Parking regulations below.)*

*Public safety is our number one priority. We will share information with schools, hospitals, emergency services and other community partners to enhance public safety during a disruption.*

*This information is provided to assist you in getting to work, school or appointments. Please take the time to read it, and contact us if you have any questions. Your city government is doing everything we can to keep the City's transit service on the road and we appreciate your efforts in this challenging time.*

### Carpooling

Ridematching services are available on the Internet to help drivers and passengers find carpools. We encourage you to organize a carpool at your school or workplace. Follow the links provided at ottawa.ca, octranspo.com or ottawaridematch.com

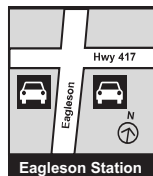
### Park & Ride for Carpooling

During a transit disruption, any OC Transpo Park & Ride lot may be used as a carpooling point for people wanting to share rides. These include Terry Fox, Eagleson, Baseline, Fallowfield, Strandherd, Greenboro, Orléans, and Trim, as well as smaller lots at Carp, Richmond, Manotick, Leitrim, Vars, Navan and Notre-Dame-des-Champs and other locations. For more details and information, check ottawa.ca, ottawaridematch.com or octranspo.com, or call 613-741-4390, or 3-1-1.

Some of the Park & Ride Locations



Terry Fox Station



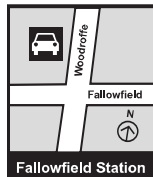
Eagleson Station



Baseline Station



Greenboro Station



Fallowfield Station



Strandherd Station



Place d'Orléans Station



Trim Station

**INFO 613-741-4390 TTY 613-741-5280**  
**octranspo.com**

### Transit Pass Holders

Please hold on to your transit pass and Park & Ride permit. They will serve as credits towards the purchase of future passes.

### ECOPASS Holders

Automatic payments for ECOPASS will continue, and ECOPASS subscribers will be credited at a future date.

### O-Train

The O-Train service will experience the same disruption as OC Transpo buses.

### Teleworking

If your job is suitable for teleworking from home, consider speaking with your employer about this option. Telework is not for everyone, but it may work for you during the transit labour disruption.

### Para Transpo Customers

Para Transpo service will continue as usual. Service may take longer than normal, as these vehicles will face increased traffic congestion. Transit passes and tickets may be purchased at these locations:

- All City of Ottawa Client Service Centres
- Your regular neighbourhood pass and ticket vendors

NOTE: All OC Transpo Sales Centres will be closed during a service disruption.

### Transit Service Updates

For transit service updates, please visit octranspo.com or monitor regular media reports, or call us at 613-741-4390 or 3-1-1.

### Traffic and Parking Regulations

During a transit disruption, there will likely be up to 20 per cent more vehicles on the road. To help accommodate this additional traffic, we have made the following adjustments:

#### On-street Parking

You will be able to park all day where one-, two- and three-hour unmetered parking is currently permitted. You will not be able to park where stopping and parking are prohibited.



#### Metered Parking

Parking meter charges and regulations will remain in effect to ensure short-term parking is available for customers of local business. Do not park in metered spaces beyond specified times.

#### Bus-only Lanes on City Streets

The bus lanes on Albert and Slater Streets, Mackenzie King Bridge, Montreal Road, Rideau Street (east of King Edward) and Woodroffe Avenue will be open to public use at all times.



#### Transitway Restricted to Emergency Vehicles

For the safety of the community, access to the Transitway and bus-only lanes on Highway 417 and the 174 will be restricted to emergency vehicles only including police, fire and ambulance.

#### Tow-away Zones

To ensure that key traffic lanes remain clear, tow-away zones will be strictly enforced.



#### Other Regulations

All other regulations in the Traffic and Parking By-Law will remain in effect, such as:

- all no-stopping regulations
- corner-parking restrictions
- blocking of driveways
- fire hydrants and fire routes

#### Traffic updates

For traffic updates and reports, listen to Information Radio 99.7 FM.



Actress Amy Jo Johnson has welcomed her first child, a daughter. Francesca Christine was born at 9:09 p.m. last week, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz. Dad is Johnson's fiancé Olivier Giner, 33. **PEOPLE.COM**

## Celebrity Buzz

# Milano files for restraining order



GETTY IMAGE PHOTOS

**LEGAL** Actress Alyssa Milano has filed for a restraining order against an alleged stalker after he reportedly tried to break into her home on two occasions, **imdb.com** reports.

Milano filed the petition in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday claiming Jeff Turner, 54, has made fre-

quent attempts to contact her over a two-year period, including trying to enter her L.A. home without permission.

According to E! News, the documents accuse Turner of being an "obsessed and mentally unstable fan" who has made statements "indicating that unless restrained the conduct is very likely to continue."

Milano also asks for the restraining order to prevent Turner from having contact with her immediate family, and that he must stay at least 100 yards from her and her home at all times.

An L.A. court hearing to decide if the order will be granted is set for Jan. 21.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Love at first sight

**MARRIAGE** Tom Cruise fell in love with Katie Holmes at first sight and rushed off to buy an engagement ring after their first date, **imdb.com** reports.

The actors' relationship has been subjected to much scrutiny by the public and media critics who have speculated their union was arranged and their romance is a farce.

But Cruise insists their marriage is the real deal and he has been in love with Holmes since he first set eyes on her.

"I knew I wanted to marry Kate when I met her,"

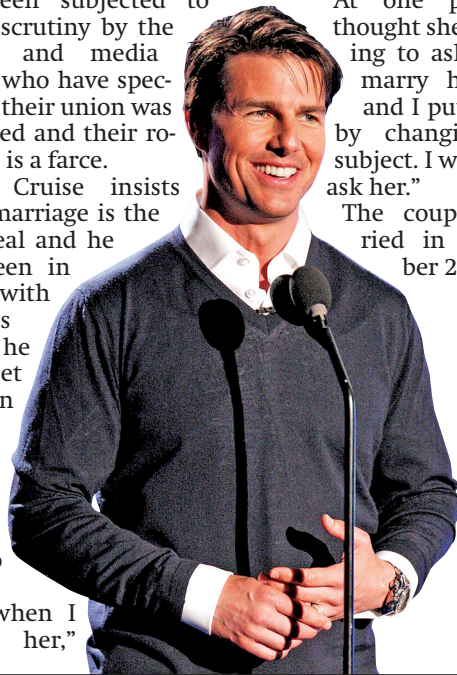
Cruise tells the Dec. 7 issue of the New York Times Style Magazine.

He admits he proposed in a hurry in 2005, because he feared Holmes would ask him first.

"At one point, I thought she was going to ask me to marry her first and I put her off by changing the subject. I wanted to ask her."

The couple married in November 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Kidman credits age for bravery

**PEOPLE** Actress Nicole Kidman is embracing her 40s, because she is braver now than she has ever been, **imdb.com** reports.

The Oscar winner faced a tough time as she took on her role in Baz Luhrmann's epic *Australia*, in which she had to live and shoot in the harsh conditions of the Australian outback. But the 41-year-old is adamant being a mature woman helped her cope with the extreme conditions, insisting she gains more courage with age.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Richie makes Joel go on diet

**RELATIONSHIPS** Nicole Richie has put her boyfriend Joel Madden on a diet, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

The reality TV star, who has a 10-month-old daughter Harlow with Madden, has reportedly banned the Good Charlotte rocker from eating calorific foods because he has piled on the pounds since becoming a father in January.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Goodwin, Klein split

**BREAKUP** Ginnifer Goodwin and Chris Klein have called it quits after two years of dating, **People.com** reports.

A friend of Goodwin tells **People** the split was mutual and amicable.

"They realized they wanted different things," says the friend. "In the long run, the relationship wasn't going to work."

With a busy winter ahead for Goodwin, 30, who re-

HBO's *Big Love* in January and stars in He's Just Not That Into You, opening in February, the actress plans to enjoy the single life for the time being.

"She's not interested in dating anyone just yet," the friend says.

Klein, 29, is also busy with work, returning to big screen in *Street Fighter* in February.

Reps for Klein and Goodwin did not return calls for comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Beyoncé talks about marriage

**RELATIONSHIPS** R&B singer Beyoncé Knowles has confessed her marriage to Jay-Z is often a "power struggle," **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

Knowles, who wed the rapper in April, admits being part of a superstar couple is tough. But she insists she loves the pair's testing relationship, and would be "bored" without a headstrong husband.

"My marriage is a power struggle," she says. "But if I didn't respect someone and they didn't have that strength, then I would be bored. I wouldn't be attracted to them."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Bynes won't date actors

**RELATIONSHIPS** Actress Amanda Bynes has vowed never to date another actor after an ex-boyfriend's cheating ways nearly "killed" her, **imdb.com** reports.

Bynes, 22, tells *American Cosmopolitan* magazine she was so shaken after her split with an unnamed actor she moved back in with her parents for two

months to soothe her heartache.

"(He) ended up breaking my heart. I was so hurt. I'm a confident person, but it killed me," Bynes said.

Though she admits she's turned on by Hollywood's leading men, Bynes refuses to be another actor's arm candy.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Most influential woman

**CAREER** Oprah Winfrey is a talk-show host, magazine editor, philanthropist and icon, so it should come as no wonder she was named the most influential woman in the entertainment industry in the Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment: Power 100 list, **People.com** reports.

Winfrey was cho-

sen "based on her dizzying array of Oprah-branded media and her immense cultural influence," the trade publication's editor-in-chief Elizabeth Guider said in a statement.

Meanwhile, actress Angelina Jolie topped the list of the highest-paid actresses.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Miller and wife welcome a son

**FAMILY** Jonny Lee Miller of TV's *Eli Stone* and his wife, actress Michele Hicks, have welcomed a son, his rep confirmed to **People**.

Buster Timothy Miller was born Wednesday in Los Angeles, weighing in at 9 lbs.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



# J.J. SAID IT WOULD!



ctvottawa.ca

# CTV NEWS

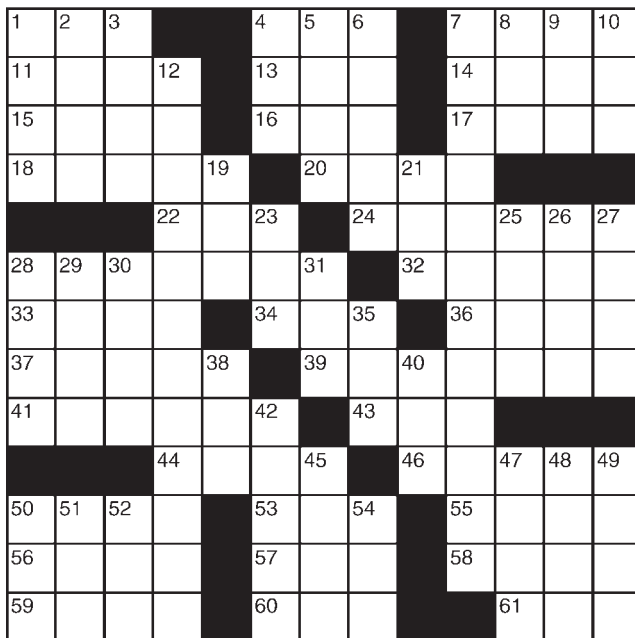




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For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)

## Take Five



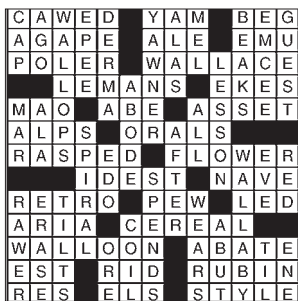
## Crossword across

- 1 Emotional one?  
4 Watch chain  
7 Pop duo, — and Jeremy  
11 Magnificent tale  
13 Nev. neighbor  
14 Firetruck necessity  
15 Opulent  
16 Actor McBride  
17 Church section  
18 Recovery regimen  
20 Cold War initials  
22 Like 20-Across  
24 Brunei bigwig  
28 Hot water tanks  
32 Liberace's instrument  
33 Con  
34 Assenter's vote
- 36 Sea eagle  
37 Superman comparison  
39 DeNiro's "Analyze This" co-star  
41 Glum  
43 — -jongg  
44 Clarinet insert  
46 Skewered entree  
50 Nil  
53 Have a bug  
55 Therefore  
56 State with certainty  
57 Weep  
58 Roman lyre player  
59 Menial toiler  
60 Golf prop  
61 Apply lightly

## Crossword down

- 1 Frau's mister  
2 "... blackbirds, baked in —"  
3 St. with two peninsulas  
4 Govt. agcy.  
5 Hawaiian island  
6 Great joy  
7 "Two and a Half Men" actor  
8 Bound  
9 Donkey  
10 Ruby or Sandra  
12 Snoopy's owner  
19 Spelling contest  
21 Dine  
23 Parched  
25 Bakery offering  
26 Kournikova of tennis
- 27 Christmas refrain  
28 Low voice  
29 Aware of  
30 Detail  
31 Moment  
35 Branch  
38 Shelter  
40 Tibetan critter  
42 Do a double take  
45 Catastrophic  
47 Raised  
48 Taj Mahal city  
49 Nitwit  
50 Use a ray gun  
51 She raised Cain  
52 Kanga's kid  
54 Caustic solution

## PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	3	4	1	8	7	2	5	9
9	8	5	3	4	2	6	7	1
7	2	1	5	6	9	4	3	8
8	9	2	6	7	5	1	4	3
4	6	7	8	1	3	9	2	5
1	5	3	9	2	4	7	8	6
2	1	9	7	3	8	5	6	4
5	7	8	4	9	6	3	1	2
3	4	6	2	5	1	8	9	7

## SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius  
13-17 min.....Scholar

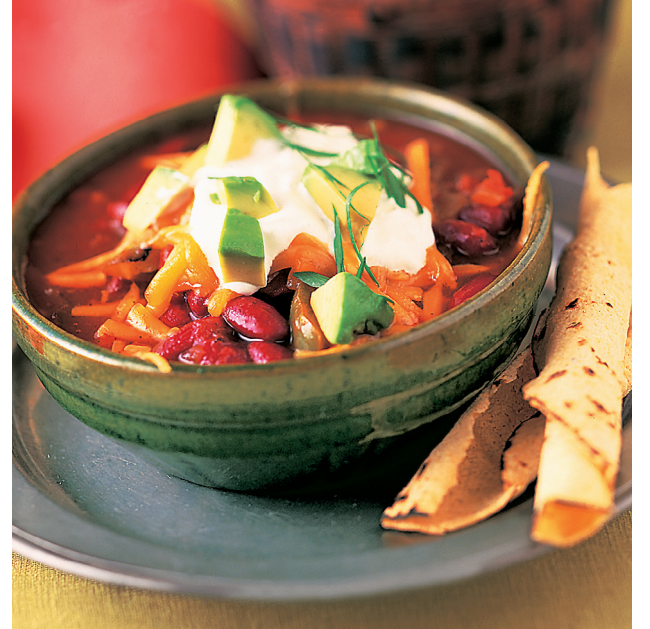
17-21 min .....Smart  
21-25 min .....Not bad  
25+ min.....Keep practising

## Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4	7	9		6			
	3			4	1			
	1		3		6			
			5				3	
4			1		8			5
	9				2			
			8		3		2	
		8		7			5	
		1		9	4	6		

## Metro Recipe of the Day



## Chili Beef Pots with Cheese

## INGREDIENTS:

1 lb (500 g) lean ground beef  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
1 large green or red bell pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
2 large garlic cloves, crushed  
1 large can (400 g) chopped tomatoes  
2/3 cup (150 mL) beef stock  
1 large can (420 g) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
1/2 tsp (2 mL) chili powder  
1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground cumin  
1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground cinnamon  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1/2 cup (125 mL) old cheddar, grated

## TO SERVE:

Sour cream  
Diced avocado  
Chopped fresh coriander leaves  
Soft flour tortillas, warmed

## METHOD:

- Put ground beef in a large, dry frying pan and brown over medium heat, for about 4–5 minutes.
- Add onion, bell pepper and garlic and cook 5 minutes until onion is softened. Stir in tomatoes, stock, beans and spices. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Season to taste.
- Ladle hot chili into individual bowls and sprinkle with cheese.
- Serve topped with sour cream, diced avocado and chopped coriander, with warmed tortillas on the side.

## SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



## Horoscopes

## AVATAR VENUS

## ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



Frustration arises when confirming details of a message. Good humour is damaged by disagreements. Someone is at odds with your nature.

## LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



Refuse to be intimidated by a loved one. The intensity of tension leads to snippy remarks. A friend's depression is worsening.

## TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Confusion about a close friend is tiring. Don't lend or borrow money. Emotional patterns are obvious concerning a family quarrel.

## SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



Something peculiar causes the interception of a message. Don't hide your head in the sand. A late night chat gives a satisfying sleep.

## GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Don't rush into a romantic fantasy. An adviser has a positive impact on your decisions. People comment on how lenient you are.

## SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



Falling madly in love is a viable option. Money is recovered in unexpected ways. All will be well with an ailing person.

## CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



A family member suggests better arrangements. People's problems interfere with communications. A buddy wants to do something special.

## CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



Don't expect a simple resolution to your doubts. A contemptuous person starts asking probing questions. Beneficial events develop in obscurity.

## LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



If Fate throws you a lemon — make lemonade. Focus on a goal for a job-related task. The least likely person will make you happy.

## AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Everything works out as planned. Affection brings good cheer and renewed energy. An offensive person suffers humiliation.

## VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



A foolish schemer is amusing, for a change. Set your boundaries firmly in place. Look within to make a personal discovery.

## PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



Why the fittest survive will become clear. You don't want to know the ugly truth. Flee from an over-confident idealist.

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## This day in history

DEC. 8, 1854: Pope Pius IX proclaims the dogma of Immaculate Conception, which holds that the Virgin Mary was born free of original sin.  
DEC. 8, 1869: Timothy Eaton founds T. Eaton Co. Limited in Toronto, Canada.  
DEC. 8, 1953: Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the Atoms for Peace speech.  
DEC. 8, 1974: A plebiscite results in the abolition of monarchy in Greece.  
DEC. 8, 1980: Mark David Chapman shoots and kills John Lennon in front of The Dakota apartment building in New York City.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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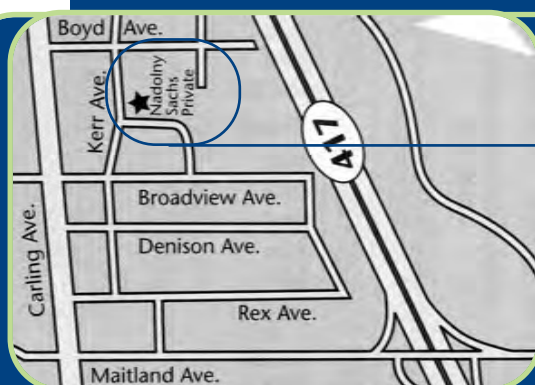
Offer valid for the following categories  
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